

TOP SECRET

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 FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 113
 TO RODMAN/LORD FOR MR. KISSINGER
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 T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY WH30447

TOHAK 113

FEBRUARY 12, 1973

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCOWROFT

1. THE PRESIDENT CALLED ME IN A FEW MINUTES AGO TO CHAT ABOUT THE POWS. HE IS PLEASED TO THE POINT OF EUPHORIA WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE INITIAL GROUP OF RELEASED POWS HAS BEHAVED. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT IT HAS BEEN AN IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE BY THE POWS. THEY WERE ALL VERY MILITARY LOOKING, SALUTING UPON LEAVING THE AIRCRAFT AT CLARK, AND THE STATEMENTS MADE BY REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH PLANE WERE PATRIOTIC AMER. AND AT ITS BEST. THE SENIOR POW OF THE GROUP, A COLONEL RISNER, PLACED A CALL TO THE PRESIDENT TO THANK HIM FOR THEIR RELEASE. THE PRESIDENT RETURNED THE CALL AND RISNER EXPRESSED, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MEN, THEIR GRATITUDE, THEIR APPRECIATION OF A STRONG AND COURAGEOUS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND THEIR WISH THAT EACH ONE COULD PERSONALLY SHAKE THE PRESIDENT'S HAND. THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY MOVED BY THE WHOLE AFFAIR.

2. THE PRESIDENT ALSO MENTIONED THE MESSAGE HE HAD SENT YOU EARLIER TODAY (TOHAK 109). HE REITERATED THE POINTS IN THAT MESSAGE AND INDICATED THAT HE FELT VERY STRONGLY ABOUT IT.

3. AS YOU ALSO LEARNED FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, WE ARE DEPARTING FOR WASHINGTON IN ABOUT AN HOUR. THE PRESIDENT SAID IT IS NOT REALLY IMPORTANT WHETHER YOU RETURN ON THE 19TH OR THE 20TH, BUT THAT IF IT DID NOT MATTER TO YOU, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER STOPPING OVERNIGHT IN HAWAII OR SOMEWHERE ELSE ALONG THE WAY.
 WARM REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC
 RELEASE
 INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

DPMO review
 completed.

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